REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action mailed January 16, 2008, claims 1, 3, 4, and 6 – 9 were rejected. In response, Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7. Applicant hereby requests reconsideration of the application in view of the amended claims and the below provided remarks.

Response to Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dedic (U.S. Pat. No. 5,384,570) in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA), Fig. 2.

Claim 1 has been amended to particularly point out that the track-and-hold circuit is a "single" track-and-hold circuit. Support for this amendment is found in Applicant's specification at, for example, paragraphs [0001], [0020], and [0021], and Fig. 5. As amended, claim 1 recites:

> "A *single* track-and-hold circuit having an input signal (Vin) and an output signal (Vs), a bootstrap switch (14a) having as its inputs a clock signal and an input signal (vin), said input signal (vin) of said bootstrap switch (14a) being connected to said output signal (Vs) of said circuit via level shifting (20) and buffering means (30), characterized in that said input signal (vin) of said bootstrap switch (14a) comprises said output signal (Vs) of said circuit; said *single* track-and-hold circuit further comprising a capacitor (12), said input signal (Vin) being connected to said capacitor (12) via a switch (10), said switch (10) being closed during a track mode of said circuit and open during a hold mode of said circuit, said bootstrap switch (14a) having as an output to said switch (10), a clock signal (clkboot) equal to said input signal (Vin) added to a supply voltage (Vdd); and
> including two or more bootstrap switches (14a, 14b), the input signal (vin) of *each of which is connected to said output signal (Vs) of said single track-and-hold circuit via said level shifting (20) and buffering means (30) of said single track-and-hold circuit*." (emphasis added)

Applicant asserts that claim 1, as amended, is not unpatentable over Dedic in view of the AAPA because neither Dedic nor the AAPA teach or suggest two or more bootstrap switches, "the input signal (vin) of *each of which is connected to said output signal (Vs) of said single track-and-hold circuit via said level shifting (20) and buffering means (30) of said single track-and-hold circuit*." The Office action cites "Fig. 11, 4, 5 included in VSC1, VSC2" of Dedic as teaching two or more bootstrap switches as recited in amended claim 1. Applicant respectfully points out that VSC1 and VSC2 in Fig. 11 of Dedic represent <u>two separate</u> voltage storage

circuits, Dedic col. 25, lines 46 – 48. Although Fig. 11 depicts two bootstrap switched driving devices (4, 5), the two bootstrap switched driving devices (4, 5) are each associated with a different one of the two separate voltage storage devices, VSC1 and VSC2. In contrast to Dedic, amended claim 1 recites a single track-and-hold circuit that includes two or more bootstrap switches. In particular, amended claim 1 recites two or more bootstrap switches, "the input signal (vin) of *each of which is connected to said output signal (Vs) of said single track-and-hold circuit via said level shifting (20) and buffering means (30) of said single track-and-hold circuit*." Clearly the two bootstrap switched driving devices (4,5) depicted in Fig. 11 of Dedic are not connected to the output signal via the same level shifting and buffering means as recited in amended claim 1. Because Dedic does not teach or suggest the above-identified limitation of amended claim 1, Applicant asserts that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

Dependent Claims 3, 4, and 6 – 9
Claims 2 – 4 and 6 – 9 are dependent on claim 1. Applicant respectfully asserts claims 2 – 4 and 6 – 9 are allowable at least based on an allowable base claim.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments remarks made herein. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any over payment to Deposit Account **50-3444** pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.25. Additionally, please charge any fees to Deposit Account **50-3444** under 37 C.F.R. 1.16, 1.17, 1.19, 1.20 and 1.21.

Respectfully submitted,

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